

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of user interaction on the world-wide web, comprising the steps of:

defining a virtual world using at least one web site, the virtual world including a virtual geographic terrain with a set of virtual locations;

displaying the virtual geographic terrain and virtual locations to a plurality of visitors to the virtual world, each being interconnected to the web site through the world-wide web;

identifying each visitor to the virtual world with a symbol superimposed on the geographic terrain;

providing a facility whereby visitors may traverse virtual geographic terrain and visit virtual locations by moving the symbols;

predicting a next location where a visitor might traverse within the virtual world based upon previous symbol movements;

caching information to provide a more immediate presentation of the next location; and

establishing a common metric with respect to each visitor, enabling one visitor to interact with another visitor in accordance with the metric.

Claim 7 has been canceled.